April 2012

Martin place

OCCUPY SYDNEY ZINE

#1

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OCCUPY SYDNEY Zine

Issue 1
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Photo by Bern Ellis

Welcome

Welcome to the very first issue of Occupy Sydney Zine! This is *your* platform to share & show what Occupy Sydney means to you.

The submissions in this zine are the opinions of individual Occupiers. All copy rights & ownership remain with these individuals.

Please feel welcome to contribute & add *your* voice & views.

It is only when we share in the commons do we bond as a community, so let us all share in the commons of the people's media & discover what we can create together.

A big thank you to Rohan, Maloë, Marc, Jacob, Liam, Nicole & Lily for your articles, reports, photos, games, images & poetry. I am so very grateful to work on this project with your talents!

Much Love & Support xx Bern

Your Submissions & Feedback

Please put "Submission" or "Feedback" in the subject heading & submit your contributions by Wednesdays to OccupySydneyZine@googlegroups.com

so it can be ready for printing by Occupy Fridays

Submitted by Bern Ellis

Occupy Sydney backs a Call for a Worldwide General Strike on May 1st.

From the Occupy Sydney website
http://www.occupysydney.org.au
By Liam Kesteven

On February the 18th The General Assembly of Occupy Sydney endorsed a call for a Worldwide General Strike on May 1st.

This Strike is being organised in unison with other Occupies around the World, including Occupy Wall Street, Occupy Los Angeles & Occupy Oakland.

This will not just be a Call to No Work on May 1st but also No School, No Housework, No Shopping & No Banking.

As Recent Job Cuts in the Financial Sector of Australia have shown the 1% continue to enjoy increasing profits and bonuses while sacking and outsourcing Australian Jobs and also not passing on Interest Rate Cuts to Hard Working Australians.

Why work to make the corporations richer? The only power we have is the withdrawal of our labour. Strike for control over our own lives.

Recently on February 28th Eleven Major Trade Unions in India organised a One-Day Strike Involving Millions of Workers in defence of public ownership and for stronger labour rights. ***GreenLeft Article***

http://www.greenleft.org.au/node/50246

Occupy Sydney will be organising for May 1st with Unions and other Groups.

Video from Occupy Sydney Media Youtube *Channel*

http://www.youtube.com/occupysydneymedia

Occupy sydney podcast 001 - may day general strike by *Occupysydney* on *Mixcloud*

Occupy May 1st *Website* http://www.occupymay1st.org/

Thinking of Staying?

Submitted by Rohan Best

An Occupier's Guide to staying in Martin Place

Staying in Martin Place at night can be a challenging but rewarding experience. The physical layout creates a strong wind tunnel which means it's always colder at the OS site than in other places in the city.

Especially now that it's coming into winter, bring your scarves, gloves, beanies, coats and wear lots of layers! Five small layers will be warmer than one big coat. There are limited amounts of spare blankets, mats and other sleeping gear but if possible, it's always best to bring your own in case OS gear is wet or being used.

You should also bring waterproof clothes and umbrellas – Sydney seems to be constantly wet these days so as a rule of thumb, just expect it to rain.

Occupy Checklist

* sleeping bag
* sleeping mat
* waterproof clothes
* book to read
* phone/camera
* lots of layers!

A camera or a phone that can record is another essential item! You have a right to record in public spaces and this is one of the best defence mechanisms against unlawful police acts.

Unfortunately, the police and random drunks mean that sleeping on the streets can never be 100% safe. There is, however, safety in numbers and part of the occupy ethos is community and support. Remember, if you ever feel uncomfortable, tell someone: we're all in this together as a strong and supportive community!

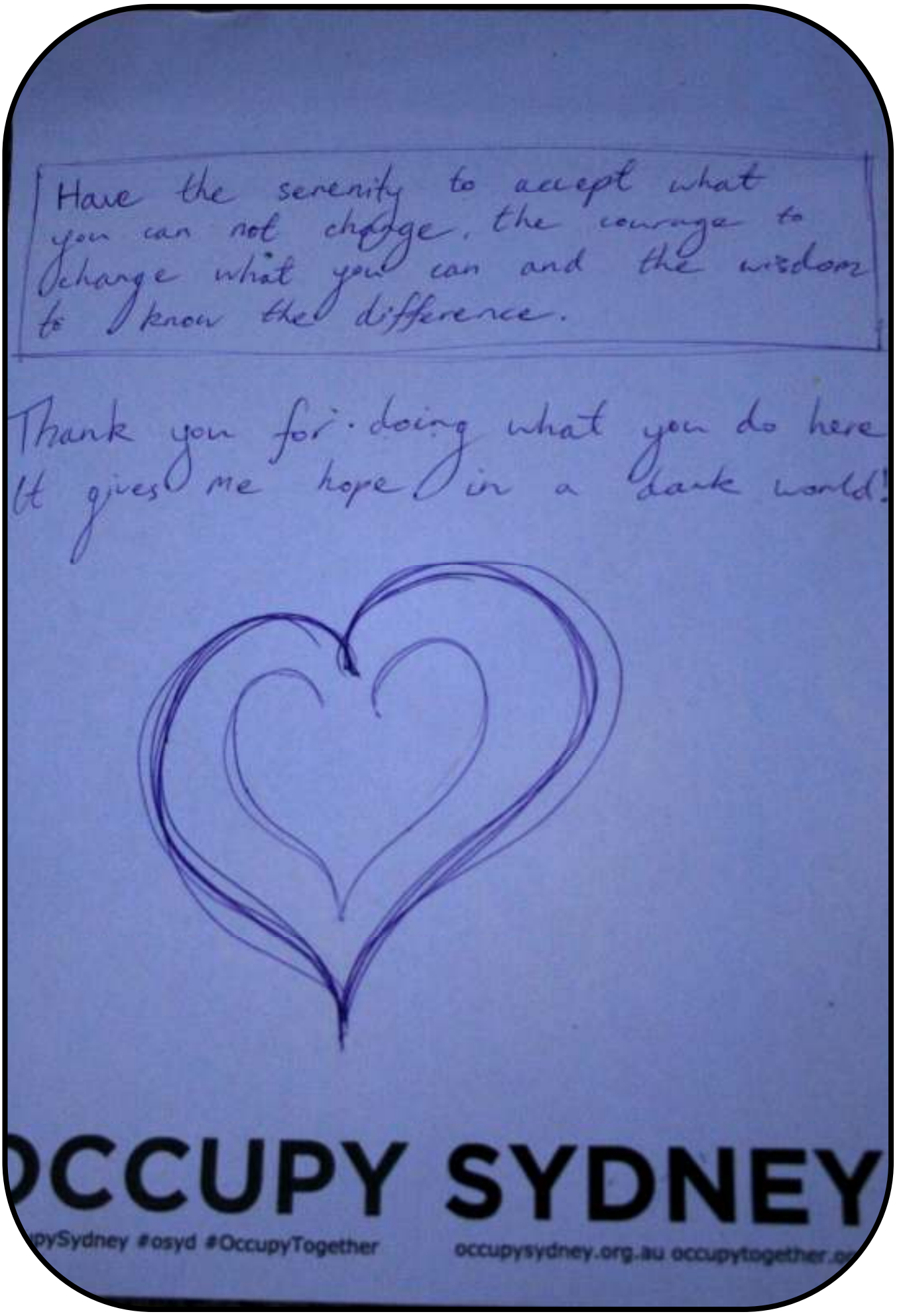

Have the serenity to accept what you can not change, the courage to change what you can and the wisdom to know the difference.
Thank you for doing what you do here It gives me hope in a dark world!
OCCUPY SYDNEY
pySydney #osyd #OccupyTogether
occupysydney.org.au occupytogether.

Photo from messagesofsupport.tumblr.com by Bern Ellis

NSW POLICE' THEATRE OF CRUELTY

On Sunday the 1st of April a group of Sydney-based anarchists and some members of the Occupy Sydney protest staged a brief protest at Darling Harbour where an expo celebrating the 150th anniversary of the NSW Police was being held. The expo, which went from 10am to 4pm, featured a number of demonstrations by the police. These were aimed at entertaining the public, who drifted in and out of the expo, while familiarising them with police activities in an enjoyable way. The activists arrived during the demonstration of the public order and riot squad. We hung banners, one saying "Disarm the cops" over the fence of the grassed area where the demo was taking place, in good view of the audience. Several people heckled us, telling us to "Get jobs", and one man who may have been an undercover cop tried to take one of the banners but was resisted. We managed to hang the banners for most of the demo, while shouting criticism of the demo and of police brutality and aggression. Afterwards we were followed out of the expo by two police officers and told not to "try anything else", but nothing further.

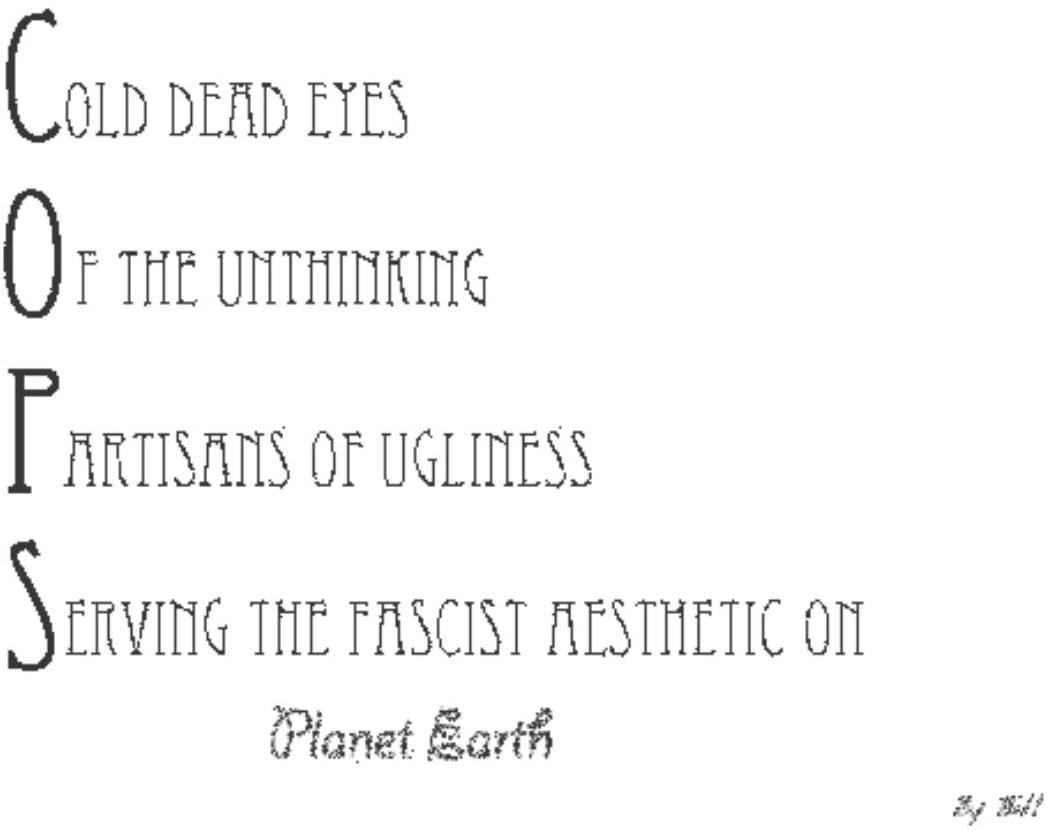
The demo was a theatrical simulation of a riot or protest, with police officers dressed in plain clothes acting as the rioters/protestors and shouting and hurling fake bricks and other objects at the riot squad, who moved in with riot shields and batons to "break them up". They moved around the large grass area, repeating the simple stage directions – Protestors throw objects. Riot police move in – over and over. At one point the "protestors" curiously began clapping their bricks, perhaps in simulation of protestors playing drums and music at rallies?

The nature of these demonstrations was particularly interesting and shocking, and what is described above was indicative of the general tone of the expo. The dog show, earlier in the day, featured police dog, Chuck, a German Shepard, in a simulated robbery, with a police officer "disguised" as an "old lady". The "old lady", apparently confused, wandered into the middle of the grassed area to be accosted by a "robber" who ran out onto the field and snatched the handbag off her. Chuck was then quickly brought into the arena and released. He ran and latched onto the robber's arm (which was of course fitted with a protective case). All the demos were received with rounds of applause.

The police had recruitment tents sent up, where people were given police merchandise bags, a police helicopter, and PCYC vans with video-game stations fitted inside for kids to play on. People were able to "mingle" with police in a relaxed and informal atmosphere, and have their photos taken with police standing by their white custom-motorbikes dressed in regalia. At one point we saw a man in a wheelchair having his photo taken while a police officer handcuffed him. The police recruitment posters featured jokes, with a photo of police utility belts and a caption saying "Great fashion accessories".

The expo was designed to make the police force and their activities of discipline and punishment seem benign and non-confronting. Even the simulation of a riot squad breaking up protestors can be a light-hearted spectacle to be enjoyed by parents and their children.

The whole show was particularly distasteful in light of its taking place barely one week after the killing of Brazilian student Roberto Ladisio in Sydney, brutally tasered by police after being suspected of stealing a packet of biscuits from 7-11 and subsequently tracked by the use CCTV.



By portraying protesters as inherently armed and dangerous, with no other purpose than throwing bricks at the police, the propaganda-piece aimed to link protest with criminality. But what were they re-enacting through this elaborate mise en scène : London riots? the Arab spring? Madrid ? Occupy Wall Street? Students in South America? Within the context of another looming GFC (countries going bankrupt, people losing their jobs, their homes and generally their hope) it was an outrageous demonstration of ignorance, or a deliberate distortion, showing a lack of perspective as to recent global events and the real reasons behind people getting out into the streets despite being faced with violent state repression. Clearly the Riot Police's purpose to their fool's day show was to promote the efficiency and readiness of the force in the event of Australian people eventually exercising their right to protest and fighting for freedom like the rest of the world.

Submitted by Maloë Cadic

Occupy Haikus

Cops and suits mocking
Don't care that this affects them
We'll see who's laughing

Cold environment
Wind blows, rain falls, lack of sleep
Fire burns in our hearts

More facebook dramas
Fuck occupying online
Get out, be active

Coffee and smoking
The breakfast of champions
Fuck I'd love some fruit

I'm writing haikus
Revolutionary stuff
Think five seven five

by Rohan Best

Photo from Diary of an Occupier By Lily Hatten
http://diaryofanoccupier.wordpress.com/

ALEC, Big Pharma, and the Medicalisation of Poverty

by Marc Ahrens

It's amazing how knowledge interconnects.

Recently in America, a black teenager, Trayvon Martin, was shot by a neighbourhood watch captain, who was not even arrested by the Florida police, as they have the discretion to decide when a shooting is justified in terms of self-defence. The laws enshrining this capacity are known as “Stand Your Ground” legislation, and have become the nucleating point for revelations regarding the process by which American statutes sometimes come about.

How is any of this relevant to Australians? It's an important question, and the answer is forthcoming...

Paul Krugman is a Keynesian economist maintaining an op-ed column at the *New York Times*, Through his column, Krugman made his contribution to the recent “Stand Your Ground” revelations in a post entitled “Lobbyists, Guns & Money”[1]. This Nobel laureate (no less) indicated the existence of a nefarious sounding organisation known as ALEC - the American Legislative Exchange Council. Krugman described ALEC as having a “pro wealthy agenda”, playing “a key role in promoting bills that make it hard for the poor and ethnic minorities to vote.” In particular, he described the organisation's role in representing the *penal-industrial complex*, which profits from the privatisation of prisons and the high American incarceration rate.

Krugman noted that ALEC has much corporate involvement, “funded by the usual suspects” as it is. Specifically, he pointed to an article at OpenSecrets.org[2], which investigates the influence of money and lobbying on American politics. There, Brad Hooker explained that ALEC contains a “private enterprise board”, comprising 23 companies and industrial peak bodies. Hooker's article tabulates the amount of money spent on government lobbying for the last three years by the 23 organisations - and which of them do you think has spent the most? Yup, "PhRMA" - Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America, a peak body representing the pharmaceutical industry. Collating by industry, Hooker's table suggests that Big Tobacco comprised 9%, Big Oil 18%, and *Big Pharma accounted for 36% of the private enterprise board's lobbying expenditure*.

It's worth considering this influence alongside the proliferation since the late 80s of SSRIs, the arguably useless and occasionally dangerous psychiatric medications that have flooded the West. Reasons for such scepticism include, but are not limited to, that fact that US FDA (Food & Drug Administration) data - all of it, thanks to FOI requests - suggest that SSRIs are only slightly better than sugar pills; that such an advantage is reliably explained as an artefact of the breaking of double-blind trials; that SSRI articles are subject to publication bias & frequently & surreptitiously recycle data to create an illusion of more positive trials, a trick known as “salami slicing” in the industry; that most trials are manufacturer-sponsored; that such papers are often ghost-written by manufacturers; that psychiatry articles are riddled with financial conflicts-of-interest. There is a mass of evidence suggesting that the US FDA erred in its approval of SSRIs.

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1 Paul Krugman, .Lobbyists, Guns & Money., 2012-03-25, *New York Times*, http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/26/opinion/krugman-lobbyists-guns-and-money.html

2 Hooker, .Corporations Represented on ALEC's Private Enterprise Board Are Big Spenders in Washington., *OpenSecrets.org,* 2011-09-12, http://www.opensecrets.org/news/2011/09/alec-corporations-are-big-spenders.html

This is where ALEC becomes internationally relevant: drug regulators around the world made the same mistakes with SSRIs as the US FDA. The regulations of the three countries I examined - US, UK & Sweden - are similar, suggesting drug approval rules are similar world -wide: companies must lodge all studies with the local drug regulator, two positive trials are sufficient to gain approval, and negative trials do not count against the drug. Further, a requirement unique to the UK regulator is not met by SSRIs, suggesting they weren't checked there. Summary: approval in the US appears to be a great influence on approval elsewhere, and American domestic politics regarding pharmaceutical legislation has impacted the rest of the world.

Is there any suspicious American legislation for drug approvals that might help explain how SSRIs got approved there? You bet there is. In 2007 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Jerry Avorn described the politics of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act[3]."The PDUFA, first approved by George Bush Sr", created a "user-pays" system, where the "user" is the pharmaceutical company seeking approval; the company literally pays the salary of the FDA employees examining its product. The official history, as conveyed by Avorn, is that the PDUFA came about because the AIDS activists protested against lengthy drug approvals that stalled access to experimental HIV drugs.

A most suspicious and enlightening detail of the PDUFA, though, is that for its first five years, *it was illegal for the FDA to use Big Pharma's fees to monitor the safety of Big Pharma's drugs once they had entered the marketplace*. With that in mind, it's hard to believe that the legislation wasn't written by drug companies themselves. Moreover, Avorn noted in 2007 when the PDUFA was up for re-approval, that PhRMA had a role in producing the new legislation. Given this, plus ALEC's *raison d'etre*, and Big Pharma's large role in ALEC, we can say "ALEC influenced the PDUFA, and AIDS activists appear to have been exploited as cover." This is not a conspiracy theory, just the organisation doing the job we know it does for those members we know to be the most active.

Krugman's comments about ALEC's "pro-wealthy agenda" dovetail in to Civil Society's medicalisation of poverty, too, a program spear-headed by ALEC's most active members. L Alan Sroufe, who once supported ADHD drugs in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, has changed his view after undertaking a long-term study of children born in to poverty, recently saying "Drugs get everyone - politicians, scientists, teachers and parents - off the hook. Everyone except the children, that is"[4]. Former NEJM editor Marcia Angell has expressed similar comments[5].

Unfortunately, drug-based psychiatry has taken root strongly in Australia. Allen Frances, lead editor of the DSM-IV, said of our Pat McGorry, that "he is by far the most powerful psychiatrist in the world", a "brilliant politician" possessing "almost unopposed influence" and a "messianic blind spot" that "had made him an unreliable evaluator of scientific evidence", so that "The mental health situation in Australia is without historic precedent."[6]

That's how the shooting of an African American teenager exposed the politics behind drug approvals, the West-wide medicalisation of poverty as per a pro wealthy agenda, and its ripple effect, a personality cult enforcing the medicalisation of despair in purportedly classless Australia.

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3 Jerry Avord, .Paying For Drug Approvals . Who's Using Whom?., *2007, N Engl J Med 356;17*

4 L Alan Sroufe, .Ritalin Gone Wrong., *New York Times, 2012-01-29*

5 Marcia Angell, .The Epidemic of Mental Illness: Why?., *The New York Review of Books, 2011-06-23 & 2011-07-14*

6 A Frances, .Seven Questions for Prof Pat McGorry., *PyschologyToday.com*, 2011-08-18

I Occupy

I occupy I occupy I occupy
I occupy I occupy I occupy

When the police officer
take out the gun
When a scared citizen
take off and run
When a police officer
shoots without thought
When another human
stands by to report

When the police officer
stomps on someone's head
When they clearly don't
care if he's dead
When a stranger dies
from a stranger's hand
And the street lies
about being grand

When I live here and no one
knows how to care
Because they can't buy
it from Disneyland

I don't want to wait
for you to wake up
from this political side show

I demand humanity
and I will occupy 'till I'm free

'cause I demand humanity
and I will occupy 'till I'm free

'till that police officer
learns how to be kind
And they take off that
bitter uniformed mind
And they turn
around and realise
that poverty can't be
criminalised

They wake up They wake up
They wake up
They wake up They wake up
They wake up
and raid the elite

By Bern Ellis

Photo from singsforchange.tumblr.com by Bern Ellis

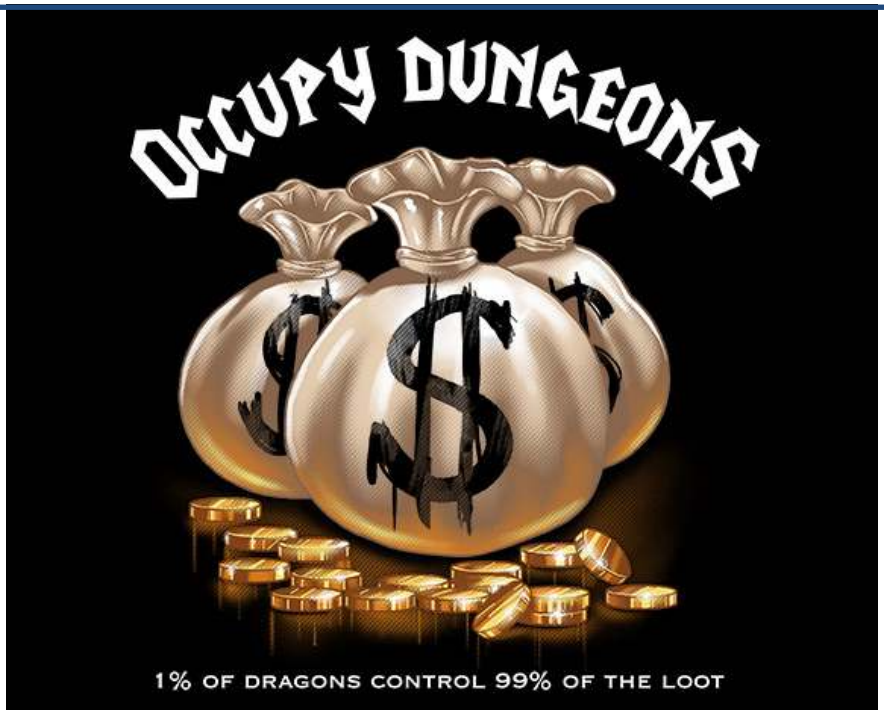


Image from the web site below

Now that Dungeons and Dragons has gone opensource we at Occupy Sydney have been building a campaign based on our experiences, here

http://occupydungeonsanddragons.wikia.com/wiki/Occupy_Dungeons_and_Dragons_Wiki

DnD classes are replaced by ideologies. There are three main ideologies in Occupy: Liberalism; Leninism; Libertarianism; and Lifestylists. Each of these ideologies is sub-divided into strands.

Liberals can be single issue enthusiasts, social democrats, true liberals.

Leninists can be Stalinists, Troskyists, or Maoists.

Libertarians can be punks, anarcho-syndicalists, or market-libertarians.

Lifestylists can be Hippies, Goths, or Yoga Teachers.

Punks :

Level 0: Proper tea is theft. Can drink a restorative herbal tea at anytime.

Level 1: Freegan Harvest. 3 time a day the Punk can scavenge enough food to feed herself.

Level 2: Patch Making. The Punk makes a patch that buffs a PC ability

Level 3: Dumpster Diving. Once a day the Punk can scavenge food for the entire party.

Level 4: Zine Production. The Punk makes a zine. Any sentient entity that reads a zine is Confused for a turn and takes a random action.

Level 5: Rewild. The Punk returns the area to its natural state. All enemies are paralysed for 1 day.

Anarcho-syndicalist:

Level 1: Black Bloc Riot. The Anarchist can not be detained by the forces of Law for 5 turns. All liberals turn hostile.

Level 2: Sabotage. The targets weapon breaks.

alt Level 2: Molotov Cocktail. The Anarchist gets a free molotov cocktail

Level 3: Build Barricade. Party get defensive bonus.

Level 4: ¡No Pasarán! The Anarchist goes into a beserker rage. 15% bonus on attacks. There is a 15% chance of attacking an allied non-libertarian. There is a 5% chance of attacking an allied libertarian.

Image by Marc Arhens

Level 5: General Strike. The working class take over the means of production. All enemies are paralysed for 1 day.

Trotskyist:

Level 1: Obscurantism. The target is confused by the Trots jargon laden speech.

Level 2: Entryism. The Trot is able to convince the target that she is an ally

Level 3: Sectarianism. All other enemies have a 15% chance to attack their allies.

Level 4: Split. The target attacks its allies.

Level 5: Deep Entryism. The Trot takes control of the targets hierarchy. All of the targets' faction comes under the control of the Trot for 5 turns.

Single Issue Enthusiasts:

Level 1: Stop Fluoridisation. Targets teeth fall out, rendering them unable to communicate.

Level 2: Stop Vaccinations. Target becomes vulnerable to infection.

Level 3: Chem Trails. everyone affected scrambles to done gas masks and hide under something believing clouds are a CIA mind control device for a few turns

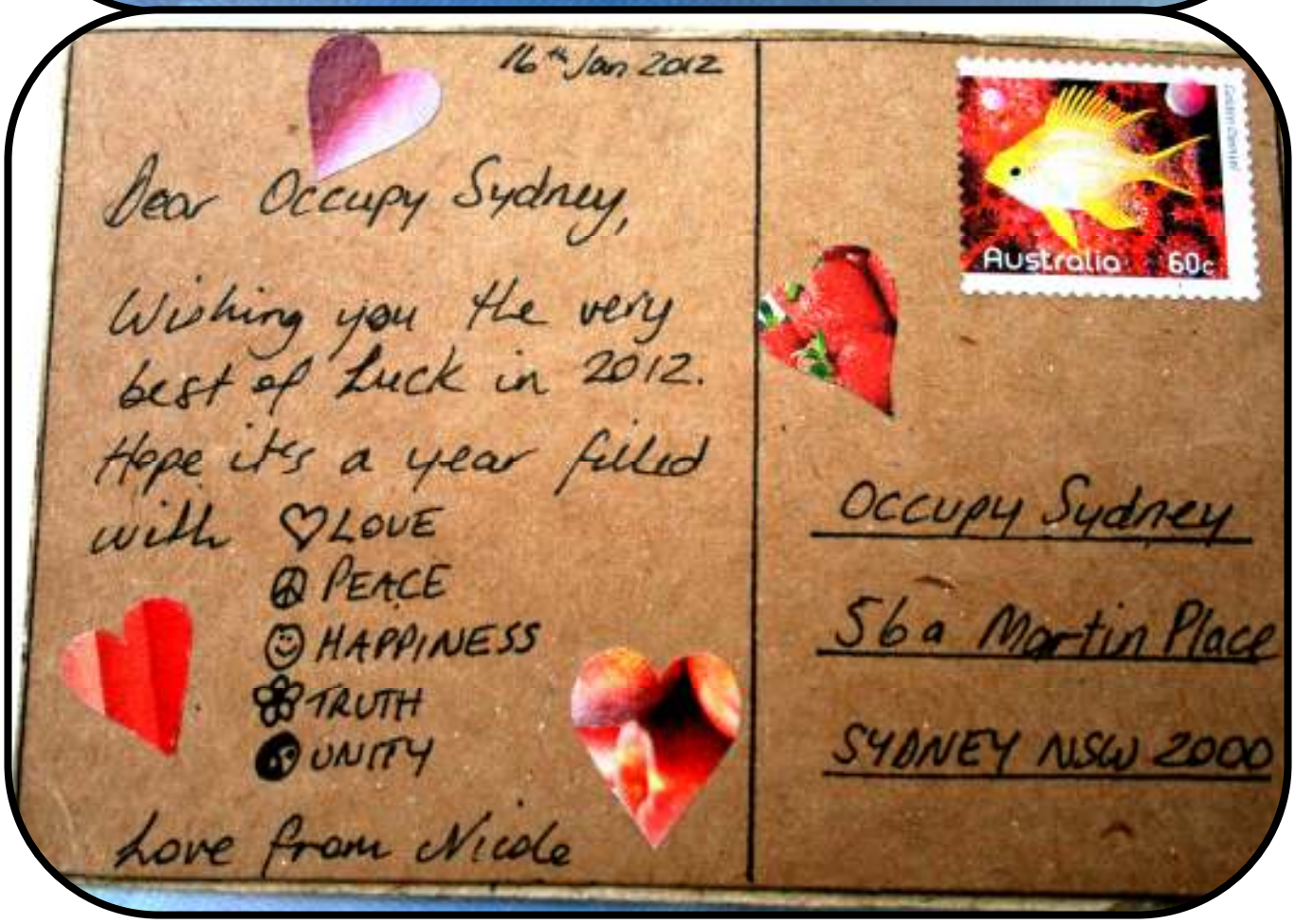
Level 4: Vegan. Immune to Impose veganism spell. Can cast Impose Veganism – target starves, loosing 15% of max hp each turn.

Level 5: Fiat Currency. Convince targets their pay is worthless. Targets turn on masters for 15 turns.

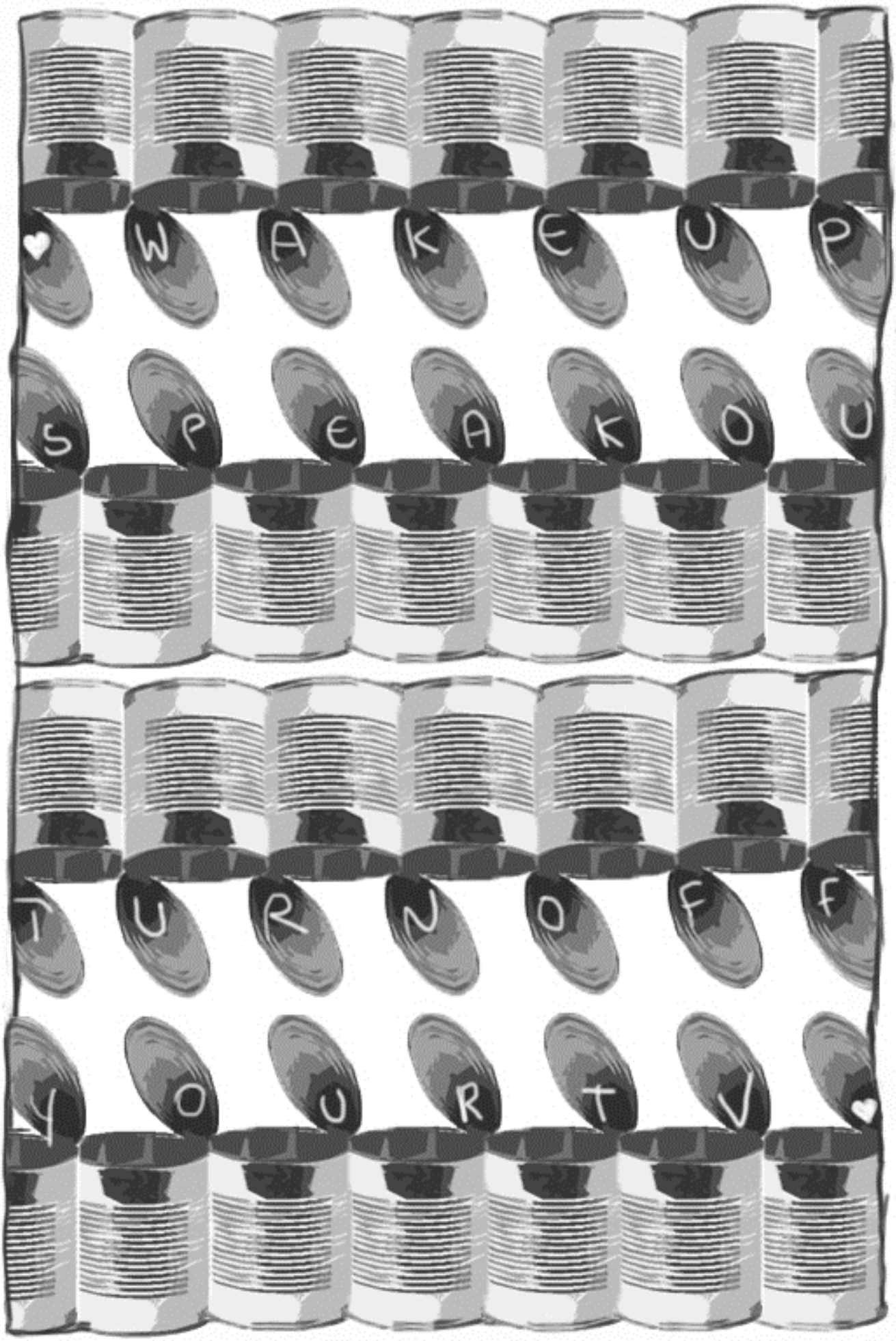
Submitted by Jacob Perkes

Image by Nicole Schaefer

OccupySydneyZine@gmail.com



Photos by Bern Ellis


WAKEUP
SPEAKOUT
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